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AHAM

NEWS RELEASE

A Report to Communicators of Home Appliance Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECORD FEBRUARY FOR MAJOR HOME APPLIANCES

CHICAGO -- The major appliance industry shipped nearly 3.2 million units for the largest February shipment in history, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

It was the first time a February shipment ever surpassed 3 million units. Total shipments were 8.2% above the previous February level.

Cooking appliances (up 42.9%) were primarily responsible for the new February record.

Over 904,000 microwave ovens and 253,000 electric ranges were shipped during the month, making it the best February ever for these appliances. Compared to February, 1985, shipments increased 51.2% and 17.0% respectively. Also, shipments of gas ranges were up 17.3%.

It was the best February ever for dishwashers, too. Shipments of 287,000 units represented a 10.8% increase over the previous February level.

For the first two months this year, shipments are 7.0% above last year's levels, primarily because of cooking appliances. Year-to-date shipments for four of the five appliance categories are up: 30.6% for cooking, 4.7% for food preservation, 3.5% for kitchen cleanup, and 1.4% for home laundry.

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MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE FACTORY SHIPMENTS THOUSANDS OF UNITS
(Domestic Plus Export)
February, 1986

	February 1986	February 1985	% Change	Calendar Year to Date 1986	1985	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	**3,184.7**	**2,943.4**	**+ 8.2%**	**6,779.2**	**6,336.4**	**+ 7.0%**
COOKING - TOTAL	**1,144.2**	**800.7**	**+42.9**	**2,480.1**	**1,899.4**	**+30.6**
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	253.5	216.6	+17.0	518.3	473.5	+ 9.5
Free Standing	208.6	176.6	+18.1	427.8	383.9	+11.4
Built-In	44.9	40.0	+12.3	90.5	89.5	+ 1.1
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES	904.4	598.3	+51.2	1,991.3	1,456.5	+36.7
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	**707.5**	**739.5**	**- 4.3**	**1,572.0**	**1,550.0**	**+ 1.4**
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	398.9	416.0	- 4.1	888.6	866.8	+ 2.5
DRYERS - TOTAL	308.5	323.5	- 4.6	683.4	683.2	--
Electric	240.9	253.1	- 4.8	534.3	534.5	--
Gas	67.6	70.4	- 4.0	149.0	148.7	+ 0.2
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	**638.9**	**618.5**	**+ 3.3**	**1,353.1**	**1,307.1**	**+ 3.5**
DISPOSERS	340.0	347.7	- 2.2	724.7	724.6	--
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	287.0	259.1	+ 10.8	602.7	554.4	+ 8.7
Built-In	265.6	233.7	+13.7	557.9	504.0	+10.7
Portable	21.4	25.4	-15.8	44.8	50.4	-11.1
COMPACTORS	11.9	11.7	+ 1.7	25.8	28.2	- 8.5
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	**484.4**	**429.9**	**+12.7**	**1,022.5**	**976.8**	**+ 4.7**
REFRIGERATORS	407.1	356.8	+14.1	855.4	794.0	+ 7.7
FREEZERS - TOTAL	77.3	73.1	+ 5.6	167.0	182.8	- 8.6
Chest	40.9	36.8	+11.1	88.7	90.1	- 1.6
Upright	36.4	36.3	+ 0.3	78.3	92.7	-15.5
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	**209.8**	**354.9**	**-40.9**	**351.5**	**603.1**	**-41.7**
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	174.9	276.6	-36.8	306.1	485.8	-37.0
DEHUMIDIFIERS	34.9	78.3	-55.4	45.4	117.4	-61.3
GAS RANGES***	**152.8**	**130.3**	**+17.3**	**301.2**	**258.3**	**+16.7**

** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.
*** Source: GAMA. Not included in cooking total or total shipments.